

REMARKS

In the Office Action, Claims 69 and 71-72 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by DeCapua et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,422,261) and Claims 57-61 were withdrawn by the Examiner from consideration. Also in the Office Action, Claims 56 and 62-68 were allowed and Claims 70 and 73 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In this Amendment, Applicant affirms the withdrawal of Claims 57-61 without traverse, Claims 1-55, 58-59 and 74-77 having been withdrawn in response to previous Office Actions. Also in this Amendment, Applicant has amended Claim 69 and cancelled Claim 70; thus, Claims 56, 62-69 and 71-73 are pending of which Claims 56, 62 and 69 are independent claims.

As an initial matter, Applicant proposes amending page 7 of the Specification as indicated herein. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment to the Specification merely conforms the Specification to the originally filed claims without adding new matter. See, e.g., Claims 71 and 72. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests entry and consideration of the amended Specification.

As indicated in the Claims section herein, Applicant has amended Claim 69 to include essentially the allowable subject matter of Claim 70, now cancelled. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection to Claim 69 and its allowance. Applicant further respectfully requests allowance of Claims 71-73 dependent on Claim 69.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present Amendment responds directly to all matters raised in the Office Action, obviates the various rejections and objections and places the Application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner enter the Amendment and indicate the allowability of Claims 69 and 71-73, Claims 56 and 62-68 having been allowed in the Office Action. Moreover, in accordance with the Office Action of February 23, 2005, in which Claim 56 was deemed to be generic, Applicants respectfully reentry, reconsideration and allowance of the withdrawn claims.


The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at his convenience should he have any questions regarding this matter or to resolve any remaining issues.

Please charge any fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

4/25/05
Date

Respectfully submitted,

DORITY & MANNING, P.A.


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